

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS DECEMBER 2, 1974:

THE HIGHLIGHTS

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 9192

B) EC BRUSSELS 9285

1. SUMMARY. THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEM CONCERNING THE REGIONAL FUND, AND ALL MEMBER STATES WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE PARIS SUMMIT DECEMBER 9 AND 10. THE MINISTERS HAVE CHARGED THE COMMISSION WITH PREPARING A DOCUMENT SUMMARIZING THE POSITION OF THE MEMBER STATES ON THE VARIOUS "SUBSTANTIVE" QUESTIONS FOR THE SUMMIT, INDICATING AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE COMMUNITY HAS ALSO AGREED TO RELEASE TO GREECE \$56.7 MILLION IN LOANS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN FROZEN. THIS CABLE
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COVERS THE INITIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST DAY'S SESSION;

ADDITIONAL REPORTS WILL FOLLOW IN SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE EC NINE HELD THREE SEPARATE MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS ON DECEMBER 2. THEY FIRST MET WITH A GREEK DELEGATION AS THE EC-GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, THEN AS THE REGULAR COMMUNITY FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, AND FINALLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL COOPERATION.

3. GREEN LIGHT FOR THE SUMMIT. THE MINISTERS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF THE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS HELD DURING THE PRECEDING WEEK, WERE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE BROAD OUTLINES OF A REGIONAL FUND. THIS AGREEMENT SATISFIED BOTH THE ITALIANS AND THE IRISH WHO IMMEDIATELY INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND THE PARIS SUMMIT. THE MINISTERS ACHIEVED A CONSENSUS ALONG THE LINES OF THE COMMISSION'S REGIONAL FUND PROPOSAL (A CONCENTRATED FUND OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE WHICH WOULD HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF DEPRESSED AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITIES. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKED TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF THE FUND'S SIZE, ITS DISTRIBUTION, AND HOW IT IS TO BE FINANCED. THE MINISTERS WORKED ON THE OTHER "SUBSTANTIVE" ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE SUMMIT (ENERGY-RELATED ISSUES, INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS) AND HAVE DIRECTED THE COMMISSION TO PREPARE A PAPER SUMMARIZING THEIR DISCUSSIONS. THIS BEFORE THE SUMMIT, AND A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THINGS HAD WORKED OUT BETTER THAN SOME HAD ANTICIPATED IN RECENT WEEKS.

4. EC-GREEK ASSOCIATION. PRIOR TO THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING, THE COMMUNITY DECIDED TO "UNFREEZE" THE REMAINING \$56.7 MILLION IN LOANS FROM THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK PROVIDED FOR BY THE FIRST FINANCIAL PROTOCOL TO THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. DISCUSSION ON THE USE OF THESE FUNDS TO EXPECTED TO BEGIN SHORTLY. THE GREEK DELEGATION DID NOT SET A TARGET DATE FOR FULL COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP BUT REAFFIRMED ITS DESIRE TO PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TOWARD THIS GOAL. (THEY PREDICTED THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO HARMONIZE AGRICULTURAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICIES WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO AT THE MOST ALTHOUGH MOST OBSERVERS THINK THIS IS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC.) OTHER DETAILS SUCH AS THE MODIFICATION OF EXISTING IMPORT STRUCTURES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM GREECE, THE PROPOSED SECOND FINANCIAL PROTOCOL, ETC, WILL BE REFERRED TO THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

5. EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL. MEETING FOR LESS

THAN AN HOUR IN THE COUNCIL FRAMEWORK THE NINE FOREIGN
MINISTERS AGREED TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE
PARLIAMENT'S REQUEST FOR INCREASED BUDGET AUTHORITY AND
DIRECTED THE COMMISSION TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF MODIFYING
THE TREATIES TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN
GROUP OF AUDITORS (A KIND OF COMMUNITY GAO) AND
TO GRANT THE PARLIAMENT GREATER SAY IN THE COMMUNITY
BUDGET PROCESS.

6. THE EC COUNCIL IS CONTINUING TODAY, DECEMBER 3,
AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP UK RENEGOTIATION AND SEVERAL
OTHER QUESTIONS.MYERSON

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